

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 953

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 7551

USIA PASS VOA, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO EMBARGO LIFTING

REF: A. ANKARA 7521; B. ANKARA 7538

1. LOCAL REACTION TO THE HOUSE VOTE LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO
DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGES OF MOST TURKISH DAILIES SATURDAY (OCT.4).
BANNER HEADLINES AND STORIES FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON REACTION BY
FONMIN OFFICIALS (REF. A) AND FRIDAY'S STATEMENT BY REPUBLICAN
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PEOPLES PARTY LEADER BULENT ECEVIT (REF. B). TYPICAL WAS

CUMHURIYET'S HEADLINE: "THE DELIVERY OF WEAPONS PAID FOR IN ADVANCE TO TURKEY TIED TO FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF OPIUM--THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOUND THE EMBARGO DECISION 'INSUFFICIENT'". MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET'S BANNER SAID: "ACCORDING TO THE DECISION ACCEPTED ALSO BY THE SENATE, PRESIDENT FORD WILL ASK A GUARANTEE FROM TURKEY CONCERNING OPIUM--AS LONG AS THE EMBARGO IS NOT DEFINITELY LIFTED, THE BASES WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN".

2. SOME PAPERS, INCLUDING CUMHURIYET IN ITS HEADLINE AND PRO-ECEVIT POLITIKA IN A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY, ASSERTED THAT THE BEGINNING OF ARMS DELIVERIES TO TURKEY WAS CONTINGENT ON A POSITIVE REPORT ON OPIUM CONTROL BY PRESIDENT FORD TO THE CONGRESS. SOME DAILIES, INCLUDING MILLIYET AND HURRIYET, NOTED THAT THE SENATE HAD ACTED ON THE HOUSE MEASURE AND THE PRESIDENT HAD SIGNED THE BILL. BUT GUNAYDIN REPORTED THAT "NO ONE KNEW WHEN THE SENATE WOULD ACT."

3. IN ADDITION TO REACTION NOTED IN THE REFTELS, MILLIYET AND CUMHURIYET REPORTED COMMENTS BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TURHAN FEYZIOGLU, CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY. HE REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT THE HOUSE VOTE INDICATES THAT HOUSE MEMBERS HAVE BEGUN TO REALIZE THE HARM DONE BY THE EMBARGO. BUT HE ADDED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE "UNJUST" (EMBARGO) DECISION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY REVERSED AND THAT THE PRESENT ACTION DOES NOT RESTORE THE SITUATION WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO FEB. 5. THE DECISION TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, HE SAID, WAS A MOVE "IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION". BUT HE ADDED THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WERE NECESSARY TO SHOW A NEW ATTITUDE AND UNDERSTANDING.

4. CUMHURIYET REPORTED A STATEMENT BY JUSTICE PARTY SEANTOR KAMRAN INAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHO ALSO CALLED THE HOUSE ACTION A POSITIVE STEP. HE SAID IT INDICATED A LESSENING OF THE POWER OF THE GREEK PROPAGANDA MACHINE IN THE U.S. AND A MORE REALISTIC VIEW OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION. HE ALSO DECLARED A RESULT OF THE VOTE WOULD BE A MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF GREECE, WHICH CANNOT NOW COUNT ON PRESSURE IN THE U.S. AS A WEAPON AGAINST TURKEY.

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5. IN OTHER REACTION, THE FAR LEFTWING DAILY YENI ORTAM GAVE FRONT PAGE PLAY TO A STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ALL TURKISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY. THE STATEMENT SAID THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WAS DESIGNED TO HELP THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IN THE COMING ELECTIONS AND REPRESENTED A BLOW TO TURKISH INDEPENDENCE.

6. IN RELATED COVERAGE, NILUFER YALCIN, THE WELL-CONNECTED DIPLOMATIC

CORRESPONDENT OF MILLIYET, REPORTED THAT TURKEY WOULD ASK FOR "RISK COMPENSATION" IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON DEFENSE COOPERATION WHICH SHE SAID WOULD BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH. ATTRIBUTING HER STORY TO "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES; YALCIN SAID TURKEY HAD TAKEN NOTE OF SPAIN'S DEMAND FOR 400 MILLION DOLLARS FOR RENT OF BASES THERE. THE STORY SAID THAT RISK COMPENSATION AMOUNTS WOULD BE DETERMINED IN THE FORTH-

COMING DISCUSSIONS, BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE HIGHER THAN THE AMOUNTS WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF MILITARY AID IN RECENT YEARS. YALCIN SAID THAT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, TURKEY WOULD INSIST THAT THE PARTIES BENEFIT EQUALLY FROM ANY NEW AGREEMENT AND THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT PROVIDE CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD EXEMPT TURKEY FROM SUCH METHODS OF PRESSURE AS THE EMBARGO.

7. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WAS SOUR IN TONE. IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, HURRIYET DEPLORED THE RANGEL AMENDMENT, DECLARING THAT IT REPRESENTED INTERFERENCE IN TURKEY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AS FOR THE HOUSE VOTE, IT SAID THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN "NEITHER AS SOME OF OUR DIPLOMATS CLAIM AS A SIGN THAT 'CONGRESS HAS FINALLY RECOGNIZED ITS ERROR' NOR AS AN EXPRESSION THAT 'TURKEY'S FRIENDSHIP CANNOT BE ABANDONED'. IT IS SOLELY THE RESULT OF CLOSING DOWN THE AMERICAN BASES."

8. MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI SIMILARLY DEPLORED THE RANGEL AMENDMENT AS INTERFERENCE IN TURKEY'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. "THE FACT THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY (IN LIFTING THE 'UNJUST' EMBARGO) CANNOT BE, FROM TURKEY'S POINT OF VIEW, SOMETHING TO BE MET WITH JOY. FURTHER, THE HOUSE, BY INTRODUCING THE POPPY ISSUE INTO SOMETHING THAT WAS REQUIRED BY NECESSITY, HAS ASSUMED A PROVOCATIVE ATTITUDE..."

9. A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY IN CUMHURİYET, BY ORHAN APAYDIN, ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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CONDEMNED THE RANGEL AMENDMENT IN HARSH TERMS.

10. IN CONTRAST, CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN LAUDED THE HOUSE ACTION AS A VICTORY FOR THE POLICIES OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. IN ITS FRONT PAGE, UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, TERCUMAN SAID: "THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS NOT BLUFFING, AS CHARGED BY THE RPP LEADER ECEVIT, IS SHOWN BY THE FACT THAT THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS FORCED TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO... THE GOVERNMENT FINALLY CONVINCED OUR CLOSE FRIENDS AND ALLIES THAT THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE SEPARATE ISSUES AND THAT IF TAKEN TOGETHER, THE SOLUTION WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT AND THE TENSION IN THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE WOULD FURTHER INCREASE. ...BUT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY HAS NEITHER BLUFFED NOR HAS BEEN SUBMISSIVE TO THE UNITED STATES AS ECEVIT WAS..."

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